

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. OAU SUMMIT TO BE IN JULY

GABONESE PRIME MINISTER MEBIAME TOLD AMBASSADOR STEIGMAN ON JANUARY 17 THAT THE 1977 OAU SUMMIT DEFINITELY WILL BE HELD IN LIBREVILLE IN EARLY JULY. MEBIAME WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS, NEARLY ALL CHIEFS OF STATE WILL ATTEND. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LIBREVILLE 136, 1/18.)

2. HEAVIER ARMS FOR ERITREAN REBELS?

A FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE INFORMED EMBASSY KHARTOUM THAT A
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SHIPMENT OF IRAQI TANKS DESTINED FOR ERITREAN REBELS ARRIVED IN PORT SUDAN. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET DECIDED IF IT WILL PERMIT TRANSFER OF THE TANKS TO THE ERITREANS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CORROBORATE THE REPORT WHICH, IF TRUE, SUGGESTS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT FIGHT-

ING IN ERITREA WILL ESCALATE. (SECRET) KHARTOUM 183,
1/18.)

3. KUWAITI DOLLARS FOR SPAIN?

EMBASSY KUWAIT REPORTS THAT THE VISIT OF A SPANISH FINANCE
MINISTRY DELEGATION HAS SPARKED SPECULATION THAT A \$500
MILLION LOAN TO SPAIN IS IN THE PIPELINE. THE EMBASSY
HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THESE REPORTS AND CONSIDERS IT
DOUBTFUL THAT THE GOK IS CONSIDERING SUCH A SIZEABLE LOAN.
IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOK OR PRIVATE INVESTORS
MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN A FUNDING PROJECT. (LIMITED OFFICIAL
USE) KUWAIT 333, 1/18.)

4. IRAQ: PUTTING THE ABU DAOUD AFFAIR TO WORK

US INTERESTS BAGHDAD REPORTS A SOURCE STATEMENT THAT IRAQ
WILL ATTEMPT TO USE THE US POSITION ON THE ABU DAOUD CASE
TO MOBILIZE ARAB PRESSURE ON SAUDI ARABIA TO MAINTAIN SAUDI
OIL PRODUCTION AT 8.5 BILLION BARRELS DAILY. ACCORDING TO
THE SOURCE, THE ESSENCE OF THE ARGUMENT WILL BE THAT THE
SAUDIS ARE RECEIVING NOTHING IN RETURN FOR THEIR ACQUIES-
CENCE TO US PRESSURE FOR INCREASED OIL PRODUCTION. THE
EMBASSY NOTES THAT IRAQ IS MAINTAINING SECRECY ON ANY DEC-
SIONS IT MAY HAVE REACHED ON OIL PRICING AND PRODUCTION.
ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS OF IRAQI MARKETING POLICIES MAY SOON
APPEAR WHEN SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FRANCE,
BEGIN NEGOTIATING CONTRACTS FOR CRUDE PURCHASES FROM IRAQ.
(CONFIDENTIAL) BAGHDAD 115, 1/18.)

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5. FRG: REFLATIONARY EFFORTS

GERMAN FINANCE ASSISTANT SECRETARY MANFRED LAHNSTEIN COM-
MENTED TO EMBASSY BONN ON THE PROPOSED \$30 BILLION US
STIMULATION PROGRAM AND THE FRG'S OWN EFFORTS IN THIS
DIRECTION. LAHNSTEIN BELIEVES THAT THE US AND THE FRG:

--SHARE THE SAME VIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND
ARE ADOPTING SIMILAR RESPONSES;

--CONSIDER THAT OBJECTIVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS DID NOT
CALL FOR MORE EXPANSIONARY POLICIES; AND

--PLAN TO RUN SIMILAR DEFICITS WHICH WILL HAVE COM-
PARABLE STIMULATIVE EFFECTS ON THE RESPECTIVE ECONO-
MIES.

ACCORDING TO LAHNSTEIN, PESSIMISM OVER THE ECONOMIC SITU-

ATION IS UNJUSTIFIED, AND US AND FRG LEADERS MUST SEEK TO IMPRESS ON THE WORLD A MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK TO GENERATE A MORE POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL TONE.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: LAHNSTEIN STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT US PRESSURE ON THE FRG TO PURSUE A MORE EXPANSIONARY POLICY WOULD BE UNWELCOME. THE CALLS OF THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION AND THE OECD FOR GREATER GERMAN REFLATIONARY EFFORTS MAKE THE FRG UNCOMFORTABLE AND IT HOPES THE USG WILL NOT JOIN THIS CHORUS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 990, 1/18.)
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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